

FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Opera Division
presents

Opera
Excerpts

MacMILLAN THEATRE

EDWARD JOHNSON BUILDING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1985

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1985

OPERA DIVISION, FACULTY OF MUSIC

OPERA EXCERPTS

L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI (Rossini)

Scene from Act II (in English)

Isabella
Mustafà
Lindoro
Taddeo
Elvira
Hali
Zulma
Turkish Servants

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
STAGE DIRECTOR
PIANIST

Nov. 15

Gabrielle Prata
Robert Milne
Lenard Whiting
Victor Engbrecht
Karen Davis
Regan Grant
Elizabeth Forster
Kenneth Beal
Blaine Hendsbee
Richard Szuba
Mark Wilson

Michael Evans
Constance Fisher
Stephen Ralls

Nov. 16

Anne Demougin
Robert Milne
Kenneth Beal
Mark Wilson
Sherri Curtis
Regan Grant
Louise Van Winkle
Victor Engbrecht
Blaine Hendsbee
Lenard Whiting
Richard Szuba

LA BOHEME (Puccini)

Act III (in Italian)

Mimi
Rodolfo
Marcello
Musetta
Custom House Officers

A Woman from the Tavern
A Passerby

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
STAGE DIRECTOR
PIANIST

Nov. 15

Sung-Ha Shin
Stephen McClare
Robert Ursan
Jane Leibel
Richard Szuba
Blaine Hendsbee
Adreana Braun
Alison Pybus

James Fraser-Craig
Michael Albano
Stephen Ralls

Nov. 16

Susan Sereda
Gary Rideout
Emilio Roman
Alison Pybus
Richard Szuba
Blaine Hendsbee
Elizabeth Forster
Adrienne Pieczonka

- INTERMISSION -

LAKME (Delibes)

Act I (in French)

Lakmé
Nilakantha
Mallika
Hadji
Gerald
Frederick
Ellen
Rose
Mistress Benson

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
STAGE DIRECTOR
PIANIST

Nov. 15

Sherri Curtis
Mark Wilson
Anne Demougin
Blaine Hendsbee
Benoit Boutet
Emilio Roman
Susan Sereda
Adrienne Pieczonka
Lisa Gaasenbeek

James Fraser-Craig
Constance Fisher
John Greer

Nov. 16

Jane Leibel
Victor Engbrecht
Louise Van Winkle
Blaine Hendsbee
Stephen McClare
Robert Ursan
Karen Davis
Adreana Braun
Elizabeth Forster

EUGENE ONEGIN (Tchaikovsky)

Act II; Scene 2 (in English) Nov. 15

Lensky
Oegin
Zaretsky
Guillot

MUSICAL DIRECTOR &
PIANIST
STAGE DIRECTOR

Gary Rideout
Regan Grant
Victor Engbrecht
Richard Szuba

Michael Evans
Michael Albano

Nov. 16

Benoit Boutet
Mark Wilson
Robert Milne
Richard Szuba

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC (Sondheim)

Scene from Act I

Anne
Henrik
Frederik
Petra
Charlotte
Carl Mangus

MUSICAL DIRECTOR &
PIANIST
STAGE DIRECTOR
CELLIST

Nov. 15

Alison Pybus
Kenneth Beal
Mark Wilson
Louise Van Winkle
Elizabeth Forster
Robert Ursan

John Greer
Michael Albano
Margot Marlatt

Nov. 16

Adrienne Pieczonka
Lenard Whiting
Regan Grant
Gabrielle Prata
Lisa Gaasenbeek
Emilio Roman

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director/Lighting Designer	FRED PERRUZZA
Assistant Technical Director	DAVID MACDONELL
Stage Manager	WILLIAM JAMIESON*
Assistant Stage Manager (Apprentice)	TOM GARDNER
Carpenter/Flyman	MICHAEL SWITZER
Technical Assistants	DANIEL BROWN, BRENT OAKLEY, TESS BODIN, JOE LESNIAK, CATHY LAYNE, JOHN WYLIE
Crew Chief	DAVID MACDONELL
Scenic Artist	JAMES PEACOCK
Board Operator	ROBERT HOLMES
Wardrobe Co-ordinator	DIANE McCANN-DAVIS
Assisted by	BRITT PETRAS
Make-up Supervisor	JACK MEDHURST
Assisted by	LESLIE WHITTAKER, JEANNE ARMSTRONG, TRACEY MOXON
Wig Mistress	FINA KHAN
Assisted by	BAMBI DONISON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - Canadian Opera Company; Mrs. Joan Bailey

UPCOMING OPERA EVENT:

Double Bill: GIANNI SCHICCHI (Puccini), and
LES MAMELLES DE TIRESIAS (Poulenc)

March 7, 8, 14, and 15, 1986

* courtesy of Canadian Actors Equity Association

L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI

When Lindoro was lost at sea off the Barbary coast, Isabella, his fiancée, and her elderly admirer Taddeo set off from Italy to find him. Lindoro was captured by Hali and became a slave in Bey Mustafà's palace. Mustafa, tired of his chief wife Elvira, tries in vain to persuade Lindoro to marry her.

When Act II begins, Isabella and Taddeo have been shipwrecked and captured by Hali. Mustafà, very much smitten by this Italian girl, is more determined than ever to rid himself of his wife. Isabella has protected the cowardly Taddeo by passing him off as her uncle and is determined to outwit the amorous Bey.

Hali and his pirates, and Elvira and her maid, Zulma, marvel at how besotted Mustafà has become with Isabella. When Mustafà orders the women to invite Isabella to have coffee with him, Zulma warns him that it may not be easy to get what he wants.

Isabella and Lindoro quarrel briefly over Elvira, but once Lindoro dispels Isabella's doubts she plans their escape.

Mustafà promotes Taddeo to the rank of "Kaimakan" (Lieutenant), hoping to reach Isabella through him. Taddeo, however, is terrified of Turks and Turkish titles and is in no mood to cooperate.

Isabella tells Lindoro to order the coffee and promises to help Elvira regain her husband. Knowing that Mustafà, Lindoro and Taddeo are listening, Isabella sings a lovesong, ostensibly about Mustafà, but of course about her fiancé.

Mustafà instructs Taddeo that when he sneezes he is to be left alone with Isabella. In the subsequent Quintet, therefore, Mustafà produces a torrent of sneezes to no avail. Isabella's attempt to reconcile Elvira and Mustafà fails and unleashes the Bey's fury in a musical whirlwind.

LA BOHEME

The painter Marcello and his volatile love, Musetta, have set up a fairly peaceful ménage in a tavern. A tattle-tale, the daughter of a Turk, comes to the tavern in search of Marcello, confessing to him that her lover Rodolfo's jealousy is destroying their relationship and that she feels that she must abandon him. Rodolfo had quarrelled with Mimì the preceding evening and has come earlier to the tavern. Mimì hides as the poet appears and overhears the ensuing conversation. Rodolfo is not only concerned with the troubled love affair but has great fears for Mimì's health. He feels sure that she cannot live much longer and is assailed by remorse and grief. Mimì's coughing and uncontrollable weeping betray her presence just as a quarrel erupts between Marcello and Musetta.

Mimì and Rodolfo find that parting is too painful and decide to remain together until spring.

LAKME

The British occupation of 19th century India has driven the followers of Brahma from their accustomed temples to secret worship in the forest. The fanatical priest, Nilakantha, exhorts the faithful to have courage and await the day when the invaders will be driven from the land. His daughter, Lakmé, is heard leading the people in prayer. The priest departs to brave the foreign displeasure and help his people prepare for their festival in the city. Lakmé and her slave, Mallika, express their delight at the fragrance of the jasmine, the songs of the birds and the cool shade of the trees and then wander away down the stream. The stillness is interrupted by a group of English sightseers. Two English girls, Ellen and Rose with their officious chaperon, Mistress Benson, have been taking a morning stroll with two army officers, Gerald and Frederick. Adventure bound, they break into the sacred enclosure, disregarding the scruples of Mrs. Benson, and the protests of Frederick, who recognizes the retreat as a place of worship. They discuss the probable

LAKME (Cont.)

charms of the girl Lakmé, who, as Frederick tells them, is considered a goddess. Rose comes upon some jewels which delight Ellen so much that she accepts the suggestion of her fiancé, Gerald, that he remain and copy their design.

Left alone, he muses on the lovely being for whom the jewels must have been created. As Lakmé and Mallika return from the forest he conceals himself in the shadows. The two women have gathered flowers which they offer to the god, Ganessa. Lakmé proposes that they escape the overpowering heat of the day by bathing in the cool river. Mallika leads the way but Lakmé lingers to muse on a strange happiness that has come over her which she cannot understand. Suddenly she sees Gerald and cries out for help only to dismiss the slaves who answer her call. She is attracted to the stranger - a member of the race she has been taught to hate; and Gerald, enchanted by her beauty, is inclined to dismiss her proffered warning of danger. He begs a moment to drink in her beauty and tells her that his own god - the God of Spring, Youth and Love will protect them. Lakmé is suddenly aware of her father's return. Gerald makes his escape but the slave, Hadji, points out the broken fence to his master who cries out for vengeance upon the intruder.

EUGENE ONEGIN

Eugene Onegin, a young man of breeding, grace and a certain arrogance, has, for family matters, settled for a period in the country. He misses his former urban life and finding himself bored at a rustic ball, has amused himself by trifling with the fiancée of his best friend, Lensky.

Lensky's nature is a passionate one, and he has challenged Onegin to a duel; Onegin has reluctantly accepted the challenge.

When the curtain rises, Lensky and his second, Zaretsky, are waiting for Onegin in the cold morning light. Lensky's thoughts turn to his beloved Olga, and he sings an aria tinged with premonition of his death. Onegin arrives with his servant. The opponents express their regret that their friendship must be sacrificed for a point of honour.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Stephen Sondheim continues to be the most successful and prolific composer of the Broadway theatre. His conception for the musical *A Little Night Music* is based upon Ingmar Bergman's film scenario *Smiles of a Summer Night*.

Desirée Armfeldt, a celebrated stage actress, is the focal point of *A Little Night Music*'s exposition. Frederik (a previous lover of Desirée) has recently married Anne, an ingenuous girl of nineteen. After eleven months of "wedded bliss", their marriage still remains to be consummated. Anne's naive lifestyle is further complicated by the attentions of Henrik, her intense but repressed stepson, who divides his time between reading the works of Martin Luther and playing the cello.

When Anne hears her husband mutter Desirée's name in his sleep, her suspicions become aroused, and an invitation from the celebrated actress for a "weekend in the country" throws the household into confusion. Anne's refusal to go is tempered by her friend Charlotte who urges her to accept the invitation and confront her rival. When Charlotte teases her own husband, Carl Mangus, with the news that they have not been invited, he resolves to attend the countryhouse weekend without being asked. Unbeknownst to the others, Carl Mangus is Desirée's current lover. Even the repressed Henrik accepts the actress's countryhouse invitation. Although all too wary of the temptations of the flesh, he muses (in true Martin Luther fashion) that "it might be instructive to observe".